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Minimal Colour Loss and Locally Adaptive Contrast Enhancement for Underwater Images: A Deep Learning and Physics-Guided Hybrid Approach

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Abstract: This paper presents a hybrid underwater image enhancement framework integrating physics-guided restoration and deep learning. The method minimizes colour loss, improves local contrast, and enhances visibility under challenging underwater conditions.

Keywords: Underwater Imaging, Deep Learning, Physics-Guided Learning, Colour Restoration, Contrast Enhancement.

I. INTRODUCTION

Underwater images suffer from wavelength-dependent attenuation, scattering, haze, and colour degradation. Traditional enhancement methods often fail to preserve colour fidelity while improving contrast.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent studies include CNN-based enhancement, GAN-based restoration, and transformer-based image reconstruction. Hybrid approaches combining physical models and deep learning have shown promising results.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed framework combines underwater image formation theory with a deep neural enhancement network.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

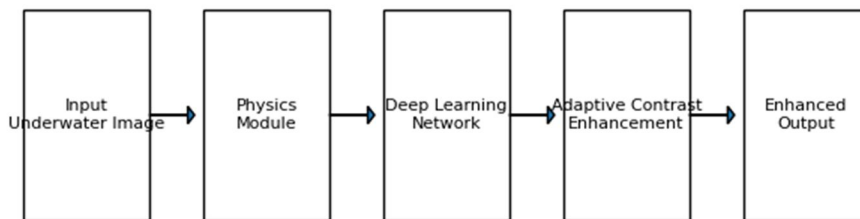


Figure 1. Proposed Hybrid Architecture

V. MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Underwater image formation equation:

$$I(x) = J(x)t(x) + B(1 - t(x))$$

Where $I(x)$ is the captured image, $J(x)$ is scene radiance, $t(x)$ is transmission map, and B is background light.



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